

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT MOSCOW'S 6411 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO
BELGRADE BERLIN USBERLIN BONN BUCHAREST BUDAPEST GENEVA
LENINGRAD LONDON MUNICH USNATO PARIS PRAGUE ROME SOFIA VIENTIANE
VIENNA WARSAW DTD 08 MAY 75
QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADD ROME -INFO- ADDEE)

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, UR

SUBJ: BREZHNEV SPEECH AT VE CEREMONIES

1. SUMMARY. IN AN OTHERWISE ROUTINE SPEECH, BREZHNEV
INVITED THE U.S. TO SEIZE ON THE ENDING OF THE WAR IN
INDOCHINA TO STRENGTHEN SOVIET-U.S. RELATIONS. THE
THRUST OF THIS REMARK, AND OF HIS EMPHASIS ON THE
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INEVITABILITY OF SUCCESS OF NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVE-

MENTS, WAS TO TREAT THE DRV VICTORY AS FULLY CONSISTENT WITH DETENTE. END SUMMARY.

2. SPEAKING AT THE MAY 8 KREMLIN CELEBRATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II, THE SOVIET LEADER DEVOTED SEVERAL PARAGRAPHS TO VIETNAM. WITH THE DRV FOREIGN MINISTER IN THE AUDIENCE, HE HAILED THE VICTORY OF THE "VIETNAMESE PEOPLE" IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST "FOREIGN INTERVENTIONISTS" (AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO THE U.S.) AND THEIR HENCHMEN. HE SAID THAT "THE ELIMINATION OF THE HOTBED OF WAR IN INDOCHINA" WOULD BENEFIT DETENTE IN GENERAL, INCLUDING, "AS WE HOPE," SOVIET-U.S. DETENTE. EARLIER HE HAD SAID THAT ATTEMPTS TO SUPPRESS LIBERATION MOVEMENTS ARE DOOMED TO FAILURE. THUS BREZHNEV SEEMED TO BE TREATING THE NORTH VIETNAMESE VICTORY AS AN ASPECT OF THE SOVIET CONCEPTION OF DETENTE AND TO BE ASKING THE U.S. TO SEE IT THAT WAY, TOO.

3. WHILE STRONG ON DETENTE, BREZHNEV WAS ALSO TOUGHER ON THE WEST THAN HE HAD BEEN IN HIS LAST SPEECH (IN BUDAPEST IN MARCH). HIS CRITICISM WAS MOSTLY HISTORICAL, HOWEVER, PEGGED TO THE COLD WAR ("ATOMIC BLACKMAIL," ETC.). APART FROM VIETNAM HE DID NOT GLOAT ABOUT RECENT PROGRESSIVE SUCCESSES; THIS WAS IN CONTRAST TO KIRILENKO IN PRAGUE MAY 7, WHO CITED PORTUGAL AND GREECE. NOR DID BREZHNEV REFER TO WESTERN ECONOMIC ILLS. THUS, HIS SPEECH DID NOT HAVE THE COMPETITIVE, PUGNACIOUS FLAVOR OF THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM RESOLUTION OF APRIL 16.

4. BREZHNEV URGED CONTINUED MOMENTUM FOR DETENTE WITH NO "PAUSES OR BREATHING SPACES," AND HIS IMMEDIATE TRANSITION TO CSCE INDICATES A DIG AT THOSE WHO MIGHT WANT TO DELAY THE CSCE CONCLUSION. IN CONTRAST TO THE BUDAPEST SPEECH, BREZHNEV DID NOT MENTION A CSCE SUMMIT; IN FACT, REFERENCE TO A SUMMIT SEEMS TO BE DIMINISHING IN SOVIET STATEMENTS. HE INDICATED, AS HE HAS IN THE PAST, THAT AFTER CSCE THE SOVIETS WILL INTENSIFY THEIR EFFORTS AT ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY, THOUGH HE DID NOT MENTION ASIA SPECIFICALLY, SAYING ONLY THAT THE EUROPEAN EXPERIENCE WOULD BE HELPFUL ON OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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5. AS AT BUDAPEST, BREZHNEV GAVE GREAT EMPHASIS TO ARMS CONTROL AND CALLED FOR REDUCTIONS, NOT JUST LIMITATIONS. HOWEVER, HE DROPPED HIS BUDAPEST REFERENCE TO MBFR AND SALT. HE MADE ONLY A PASSING REFERENCE TO THE MIDDLE EAST, THUS PASSING UP AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE A GENERAL COMMENT ON THE LATEST ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS THE SOVIETS

HAVE HAD WITH ARAB LEADERS.

6. THE UK, THE U.S., AND FRANCE (IN THAT ORDER) GOT A NOD FOR THEIR WARTIME COOPERATION, THOUGH NATURALLY IT WAS THE SOVIET UNION WHICH PLAYED THE "DECISIVE ROLE" IN THE ROUT OF FASCISM. THE YUGOSLAV PARTISANS LED THE LIST OF THOSE WHO CARRIED OUT POPULAR UPRISINGS--ANOTHER PUBLIC EFFORT BY MOSCOW TO ATONE FOR EARLIER SLIGHTS OF THE YUGOSLAV WAR EFFORTS.

7. IN GENERAL, BREZHNEV OPTED FOR CEREMONY OVER SUBSTANCE IN HIS SPEECH. HE SPOKE WITH VIGOR AND ANIMATION FOR ONE HOUR, BUT HE HAD HIS USUAL TROUBLES WITH ENUNCIATION. AS A FURTHER PROOF OF HIS STAMINA, SHAKY THOUGH IT MAY BE, HE SAT THROUGH THE FOLLOW-UP ACTS DURING THE 2 1/2 HOUR CEREMONIES IN THE KREMLIN PALACE OF CONGRESSES. STONES UNQUOTE
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